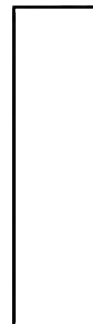


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SUMMARY

Preparations for the 19th Party Congress continue at an accelerated pace, while the press and radio are at pains to portray the nationwide discussion of the revised Party Statute as "a great debate" held under conditions of "complete freedom." Intraparty democracy is repeatedly referred to as a feature of Communist activity to be further strengthened by the Congress. Radio discussion of this topic, however, lends substance to the belief that this democratic-sounding slogan will be employed to spearhead the drive against high-handed Communist administrators and a variety of "empire builders" within the Party. There has been little discussion so far of any changes in the relations between the Party and the "non-Party masses" (bespariynnie massy), as the population at large is frequently referred to.

The chief targets of agricultural propaganda are autumn plowing and sowing, both of which are said to be reminiscent of last year's performance, that is too slow and too little in too many places. Kazakh SSR's Ministries of Agriculture, Sovkhozes and Cotton are rebuked for their poor leadership which alone is said to be responsible for the "extremely low tempos" (chrezvychaino nizkie temposy) of field work in the Republic. Fodder stockpiling in the Donets Basin, cotton-picking in the Crimea and fishing in the Black Sea area also claim some attention.

Comment on Miner's Day, which this year is celebrated on 31 August, reveals some undisguised official displeasure at the coal industry's progress. This is corroborated by the traditional letter to Stalin from the county's miners admitting their awareness of the "numerous shortcomings" in capital construction, labor productivity, utilization of new technological facilities and so on. Discussion of industrial activities in general is confined to production losses and wastage of raw materials, but unlike previous references to these themes, it is "poor economic management" rather than lax Party supervision that is now said to account for such failings. Broadcasts from Tbilisi call attention to the disorderly state of affairs on the Georgian railways, and significantly refer to unspecified "failures and damages" in the Republic's transportation as the direct outcome of the malfeasance of the previous Central Committee of the Georgian Communist Party.

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